



MINUTES

BOARD OF EQUAL RIGHTS COMMISSIONERS

July 20, 2016 at 2 P.M. in City Hall, Rm. 303

Present:

Aldira Aldape

Sharon Robinson, Dept. of Administration

Mayhoua Moua

Dana Kraemer, Dept. of Administration

Chez Ordonez, Co-Chair

Steven Mahan, Community Development Grants Admin.

Jeffery Roman, Chair

Tony Snell, PrideFest

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m. by Commissioner Roman.

1. Approval of minutes from the June 16, 2016 meeting

Commissioner Roman moved approval of the minutes; approved unanimously. Ms. Robinson stated that she will give an update on the resource guide for immigrants and refugees at the next meeting.

2. Future meeting with Milwaukee Fatherhood Initiative, Black Male Achievement Advisory Council, My Brother's Keeper, Office of Violence Prevention, and Fire & Police Commission

Ms. Robinson stated that she has confirmed the following individuals to attend the next ERC meeting: Mike Williams of the Community Engagement & Achievement Collaborative; Reggie Moore of the Office of Violence Prevention; MaryNell Regan and Clifton Crump of the Fire & Police Commission. Commissioner Roman requested that each person give about a 20-minute overview of their roles and responsibilities, synergies and opportunities to collaborate, general information sharing, and insights on their priorities.

3. ERC special account

Ms. Robinson stated that she met with the Budget Office to discuss the allocation of funds to support the ERC's activities. A review of past expenditures revealed that about \$2,000 was spent one year, and about \$1,300 in other years. The Budget Office is supportive of funding the ERC. Commissioner Ordonez asked about the remaining funds leftover from years past; Ms. Robinson explained that any unspent funds are no longer available. Commissioner Ordonez stated that it is critical for the ERC to have outreach materials i.e. a brochure and discussion ensued relative to what an outreach/marketing piece should consist of (reading level, content, simplicity, etc.). Mr. Mahan suggested that the ERC draft a formal budget to assist them in identifying their needs and priorities. Ms. Robinson requested that the ERC submit the completed budget to her prior to her next meeting with the Budget Office on August 2nd so she is better equipped to explain their needs.

4. Equal Rights Specialist position

Ms. Robinson stated that there are 29 applicants/candidates and that she and Commissioners Aldape and Ordonez are in the process of rating them based on a set of criteria that the Department of Employee Relations helped to craft. They are meeting on July 29th to finalize the top five candidates and will conduct interviews in early August. Ms. Robinson and Mr. Mahan will represent DOA in the candidate interviews. Ms. Robinson hopes to present the name of their final selection at the ERC meeting on Aug. 17th. Mr. Mahan stated that the Equal Rights Specialist position closes the loop on all of the recent hires to include the community outreach manager and the Office of Violence Prevention coordinator as well as CDGA staff.

Commissioner Roman stated that the new Community Outreach Manager, Patricia Ruiz-Cantu, should be invited to future ERC meetings and Ms. Robinson concurred.

5. Equal Rights Ordinance/City Attorney assignment

Ms. Robinson has requested that the City Attorney's Office assign a new city attorney to the ERC. Her request is under review and she will let the ERC know as soon as that person is identified so he/she can attend a future meeting. Commissioner Ordonez stated that he has been working on an updated draft copy of the ordinance and will await the new city attorney's review of it before formally submitting it.

6. Fair Housing Collaborative RFP

Mr. Steven Mahan of the Community Development Grants Administration gave an overview of the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) initiative. The Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing has just been revised and shows that lack of transportation and affordable housing are major impediments. The last version of this document (August 2005) can be located at <http://city.milwaukee.gov/ImageLibrary/User/jsteve/MilwaukeeAI.pdf>. Mr. Mahan requested that all Commissioners review this document, particularly the Executive Summary. Any jurisdiction that utilizes a consolidated plan by HUD is required to have an affirmative fair housing plan. Those plans are due in February of 2017. One of the biggest changes from the past is that a regional plan can now be submitted, which Steve has been moving towards as it will result in stopping the finger-pointing that has gone on the past whereby one community blames another. There are nine jurisdictions of HUD in the State of Wisconsin, with the closest being Milwaukee County, West Allis, and Wauwatosa. Next-closest are Racine and Beloit, and everything else is up north. The following jurisdictions will be part of the regional plan: Milwaukee County, housing authority for Milwaukee County, City of Milwaukee's housing authority, the City of West Allis, the West Allis housing authority, the City of Wauwatosa, and the City of South Milwaukee. Milwaukee is the receiver of the money and will therefore be issuing the RFP. As far as next steps, attorneys for all the municipalities and housing authorities, as well as the local HUD office, have approved the language in the RFP. The RFP will be let on August 1st, with the top three candidates interviewing either face-to-face or via video on August 29th. Mr. Mahan will forward a copy of his presentation to each Commissioner.

7. Updates on events/activities

Ms. Robinson stated that the Black Male Achievement Advisory Council meetings are public; their next meeting is August 10th if any of the Commissioners would like to attend.

Commissioner Roman stated that Bronzeville Week is August 6th – 13th and is kicking off with a walk lead by Alderwoman Milele Coggs (starting location is North Ave. & MLK Dr.).

Ms. Kraemer stated that the ERC has been moved from DER's page to DOA's. It was agreed that the current picture of the Commissioners would be taken down for now, as it is very outdated. Once the new Equal Rights Specialist is onboard, new photos and bios will be posted.

Commissioner Moua stated that the Chinese Dragon Boat Race Festival is taking place on Saturday, July 30th at the lakefront lagoon beginning at 8 a.m.

8. Next meeting date

Commissioner Roman stated that the next meeting will be Wednesday, August 17th at 2:30 p.m.

In keeping with their meeting schedule of the third Wednesday of each month, remaining meetings for the rest of 2016 will be Sept. 21st; Oct. 19th; Nov. 16th; and Dec. 21st.

9. Adjourn

Commissioner Roman adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

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